

Director role of Pyramid Alternatives. It is with great respect and deepest appreciation that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing George Torney and Pyramid Alternatives.

IN HONOR OF BUDDY LAROSA AS
HE RECEIVES THE TREE OF LIFE
AWARD

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Buddy LaRosa as he receives the Tree of Life humanitarian award on April 30, 2007 from the Jewish National Fund.

The Jewish National Fund has bestowed its highest honor, the Tree of Life award, annually since 1981. Recipients of this prestigious honor are chosen on the basis of outstanding community involvement, professional leadership and humanitarian service. Previous national recipients have included Hank Aaron, Archbishop Joseph Bernardin and Donald Trump.

The Tree of Life award was named to symbolize the Jewish National Fund's efforts to reclaim and develop the land of Israel from barren and uninhabitable land into a land of lush green forests and fields, productive farmlands and varied tourism and recreation facilities.

The Jewish National Fund is honoring Mr. LaRosa because of his outstanding community service, active civic involvement and ongoing dedication to helping those less fortunate.

This talented and generous man is the name behind one of Cincinnati's most recognized and beloved eateries, LaRosa's Restaurant. A lifelong native of Western Hills, Buddy opened his first pizzeria there in 1954 with a couple of partners, limited funds, and his Aunt Dena's recipe. Today, Buddy is known as the "Pizza King" and LaRosa's, with its 15 company-owned restaurants, 45 franchise locations across the region, and more than 1,500 employees, is a household name synonymous with great pizza.

Buddy's commitment to the youth in the Cincinnati area is legendary. Buddy has often said, "To live a full life, be a credit to my family and community, and touch young people so that one day they too may experience the joys I have had." This philosophy, combined with a strong work ethic, is no doubt the recipe to Buddy's success.

Buddy was inspired to give back to the youth of our community after a fire devastated his Western Hills restaurant in 1973. Hundreds of area high school students, through their sports coaches, helped to rebuild his restaurant in a record 40 days. As a way to fulfill his personal goal of giving back to students in the community, Buddy founded the Buddy LaRosa High School Sports Hall of Fame in 1975. The Hall of Fame has seven new inductees each year and honors 12 local high school students for their academic and athletic achievements. Today, this outstanding program is a cornerstone of our community and has touched the lives of countless young people.

Over the years, Buddy has generously given back through his involvement with the Cincinnati Golden Gloves for Youth Program and the Greater Cincinnati Police Athletic League.

Some of his other beneficiaries include various schools and charitable organizations such as Children's Hospital Medical Center, WCET-TV, and the Free Store Foodbank, Inc.

Buddy is a graduate of Roger Bacon High School and earned an associate degree in business technology. He also served his country in the United States Navy from 1948–1952. Buddy has been married to his wife, JoAnn Augustine, for 55 years and they have 4 children and 13 grandchildren.

All of us in the Cincinnati area congratulate Buddy LaRosa on receiving the Tree of Life humanitarian award.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FORT
STANTON-SNOWY RIVER CAVE
NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA
ACT

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave National Conservation Area Act. This bill is a companion to legislation introduced by my state's Senior Senator, Mr. DOMENICI. Last year, the Senate passed this legislation but the House was unable to act on it before we recessed. It is my hope by introducing the bill today we can push the process along and get this legislation done this year.

The Fort Stanton Cave is a tremendous national resource, which includes a cave that has calcite flowing all along the cave formations. This truly rare resource deserves our protection. As the Representative of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, I am aware of how amazing cave formations can be and how valuable they are to educate and inspire our children.

This legislation does the following: (1) creates a Fort Stanton-Snowy River Cave Conservation Area to protect, secure and conserve the natural and unique features of the Snowy River Cave; (2) instructs the BLM to prepare a map and legal description of the Snowy River Cave, and to develop a comprehensive, long-term management plan for the cave area; (3) authorizes the conservation of the unique features and environs in the cave for scientific, educational and other public uses deemed safe and appropriate under the management plan; (4) authorizes the BLM to work with State and other institutions and to cooperate with Lincoln County to address the historical involvement of the local community; (5) protects the caves from mineral and mining leasing operations.

This cave is a valuable resource that in time will share with us its many wonders, but to do that we must preserve this resource for the future. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting these important protections.

IN RECOGNITION OF HONOR
FLIGHT MICHIGAN

HON. JOE KNOLLENBERG

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the tremendous gen-

erosity of Honor Flight Michigan, Inc. This organization's work to honor our veterans should be commended.

Honor Flight Michigan was founded in Royal Oak, Michigan by David Cameron and his wife Carole. After watching a report about a man in North Carolina who took World War II veterans to see their monument in Washington, DC, the couple was inspired to do the same. Realizing that many veterans lacked the funds or the ability to travel alone, Mr. Cameron made it his goal to take as many World War II veterans as he could to our nation's capital. Working closely with the Royal Oak American Legion Post 253, Honor Flight Michigan has begun its statewide effort to reach that goal.

This week, Honor Flight Michigan will be making its inaugural flight to Washington bringing 60 veterans to see the memorial they have waited 60 years to see. Mr. and Mrs. Cameron plan to take these trips monthly to ensure every veteran living today can see the memorial we have constructed to honor their bravery and sacrifice.

Out of the sixteen million who served in World War II, sadly only three million are alive today. In addition, we are losing them at a rate of twelve hundred a day. It is important that we let those veterans know the appreciation we have for them. Honor Flight Michigan does that, by treating these veterans as the heroes they are.

Today I salute Honor Flight Michigan for their tireless efforts on behalf of one of our nation's greatest assets, our veterans. When I look around this chamber and see the essence of our democracy I can't help but think of those who fought to ensure our freedom, our strength, and our democracy.

IN RECOGNITION OF EUGENE BĄK

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 20, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eugene Bąk for his outstanding efforts and devoted work to Polonia and America, and his tremendous amount of civic work for the benefit of the Polish American Cultural Center.

Gene and his family immigrated to the United States in 1952, after spending a total of seven years in deportation in Siberia as well as Polish refugee camps. He obtained a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Seton Hall University and attended business programs at the University of Michigan, Harvard University and Syracuse University. Gene has spent his entire career in the chemical industry and retired as Board Director of OM Group (OMC) in 1999.

In 1982, Gene's affection for his beloved homeland led him to help the Américas Foundation raise funds to ship medicine and medical supplies to the people of Poland. He has since been a vital asset to efforts to expanding Polish culture in the Cleveland area, and as cofounder and Executive Director of the Polish American Cultural Center he has refurbished facilities to house distinguished Polish speakers, artists, shows and displays. Under his leadership, the Polish Heritage Museum opened as part of the Cultural Center to celebrate Polish history, as well as the history of Polish Americans.